

NWC Task Force review

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| COUNTRY | USSR (Vladimir and Moscow Oblasts) | REPORT NO. | |
| SUBJECT | 1. Camp for Important Prisoners at Vladimir 2. Resistance Group within Communist Party 25X1 | DATE DISTR. | 3 June 1954 |
| DATE OF INFO. | | NO. OF PAGES | 3 25X1 |
| PLACE ACQUIRED | | REQUIREMENT NO. | |
| | | REFERENCES | |

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. A Soviet prison camp was located at Vladimir (N 56-10, E 40-25). Between November 1951 and June 1953, various Germans, including former officers and diplomats, were known to be there. Some of the Germans had been high-ranking Nazis, who had fallen into disfavor with the Nazi Regime and had been "exiled" to Rumania. They were captured in Bucharest by the Soviets in 1944.
 2. The following Germans were known to be prisoners:
 - a. Field Marshal Ewald von Kleist, who had been in a Yugoslav PW camp until he was turned over to the Soviets.
 - b. General Maximilian de Angelis, who had been in American PW camps until 1948, when he was turned over to the Yugoslavs, who sentenced him to death. This sentence was not carried out, and, instead, he was turned over to the Soviets.
 - c. SS Obergruppenfuehrer Bruno Streckenbach, former commander of the Volunteer SS Cavalry Division in Estonia.
 - d. Christian Ludwig, Duke of Mecklenburg, who had served as a first lieutenant in the German Army.
 - e. Edouard Brettauer, member of the Metal Gesellschaft in Essen. Brettauer had been a lieutenant commander in the German Navy when captured at the German Embassy in Bucharest.
 - f. Dr. (fnu) Schellhorn, former German Consul-General in Chernovtsy (formerly in Rumania).¹
 - g. Franz Langer, former adjutant to Robert Ley, head of the DAF (Deutsche Arbeitsfront).²
 - h. Karl von Gregory, former press man for Josef Goebbels and Constantin von Neurath.³

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

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1. Ernst Moeder, former radio man at the German Embassy in Sofia.
3. Among other inmates known to be at Vladimir were the following:
 - a. Vasilii Ivanovich Nikonorov, a member of the Communist Party of the USSR who had been a fairly high Party official.
 - b. (fnu) Pataridze, a Georgian, born in Tbilisi but who had lived in Paris for 20 years. He had allegedly been sent against the Soviets during the war on an intelligence mission and was captured. At Vladimir, Pataridze wore the remnants of a Rumanian uniform.
 - c. (fnu) Inagaki, a Japanese worker captured by the Soviets in North Korea, who had allegedly been a Communist.
4. Eleven Greek partisans were also held at Vladimir. This group had fled to Yugoslavia from Greece during the Greek civil war, then went to Moscow and later to Tashkent, where they obtained jobs in the textile industry. In the summer of 1952, relatives in Greece wrote them that, since there was no danger of their being imprisoned if they returned to Greece, they should apply to the Soviets for permission to leave the USSR. When the Greeks applied, they were immediately arrested and sentenced to three to ten years' imprisonment. They arrived at Vladimir in January 1953. [REDACTED] one of these men, Constantine (Kosta) Gomez (sic), who had lived in Salonika, where his father was a shoe dealer and street peddler. Gomez was still at Vladimir in June 1953.
5. Also at the prison were a number of pastors and priests who had been arrested in Lithuania, as well as a member of the Old Believers, who spent most of his time in prayer and was generally considered to be a religious fanatic.
6. [REDACTED] there was an Italian diplomat in the prison who was supposed to have been a Jesuit. [REDACTED] the Italian obtained permission to receive letters and packages; one day he was known to have received a great number of packages.
7. In May 1952, prison conditions at Vladimir improved. The discipline, which had been very severe, was relaxed. As an example, it had been forbidden for the prisoners to place a book on their beds. If discovered by the guards, the prisoner was severely reprimanded. If the offense was repeated, the prisoner was put in a small dark cell for several days as punishment. Rations were not increased until 13 February 1953.
8. The prison was guarded by MVD troops placed within the compound and a peripheral guard of regular Soviet Army troops posted on the outside. However, after 1 May 1952, the army guards were removed and the MVD took over the entire guard detail. The number of MVD guards, however, was not increased, which meant that there was no longer sufficient personnel to watch the prisoners as closely as before.
9. One of the rules of the prison at Vladimir was that some prisoners were allowed to receive letters from relatives within the Soviet Union; however, most prisoners were forbidden to receive letters from the outside. On 13 February 1953, prisoners who had personal belongings with them at prison were allowed to sell them. One of the German diplomats, who had brought a trunk filled with clothing, was able to sell a used, but good, suit for 1200 rubles.
10. In February 1953, an MVD commission investigated the prison and inquired about the prisoners' complaints. Members of the commission went from cell to cell and spoke to anyone who wished to complain. Prisoners were asked if they had enough to eat, if they had been beaten, if the medical care was adequate, and if the prison was clean.
11. Medical treatment at Vladimir was comparatively good. Doctors and nurses were available and did all they could; however, the prison dentist, a woman, was poor.
12. Some of the inmates at Vladimir were Communist Party members and [REDACTED] many Communist intellectuals and officials listened to American short-wave broadcasts with great interest.

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13. Several inmates also said that there was a resistance organization within the Communist Party of the USSR. They further stated that this resistance group wanted to eliminate the present leadership, but, at the same time, maintain the Communist governmental structure.

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Comments:

1. This is possibly Dr. Fritz Gerhard Schellhorn, who was a German consul-general in Bucharest during World War II.
2. This is possibly Franz Langer, who was Reporter on Social Questions at the German Embassy in Bucharest during World War II.
3. This is possibly Freiherr Karl von Gregory, who was a German consul-general in Bucharest during World War II.
4. This is probably Col. Gen. Rudolf Schmidt, who retired from the German Army in 1943.

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